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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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GENEVA CONFERENCE BULLETIN - VI

Other UN delegates now willing to speak on Korea: The Netherlands, Ethiopia, Colombia and the Philippines have indicated a willingness to speak in the plenary sessions on Korea. Foreign Minister Eden does not plan to speak until "something concrete is proposed."

The UN hopes that plenary sessions on Wednesday and Thursday can be avoided. A specific proposal may be ready for presentation on Friday. There is some concern over the problem of keeping the negotiations moving while the American plan is being cleared with Rhee.

Rhee's attitude on new Korean proposal still uncertain: In meetings with President Rhee on 2, 3, and 4 May, Ambassadors Briggs and Dean attempted without success to gain the president's concurrence to plan B, which the United States hopes to present this week at Geneva. This plan is in accord with British and French views on unification, and gives the UN side some hope for a show of unity and of regaining the propaganda initiative. The essential points at issue are (1) the holding of nationwide elections, rather than only in the north as proposed in the original UN presentation, and (2) the holding of elections prior to a complete withdrawal of foreign forces.

Rhee's long-standing position has been that elections should be held only in the north to fill vacant seats in the South Korean assembly, and that Chinese troops must be withdrawn and the North Koreans disarmed prior to elections and unification. Last November he asserted his willingness to have nationwide elections conducted under the South Korean constitution for a new president, but not for a new constituent assembly or a new government.

It is still uncertain whether Rhee will accept the plan. In the meeting on 3 May, he indicated that he would agree to holding all-Korean elections for both a new assembly and a new president, provided the original plan to fill the vacant northern seats in the assembly were carried out first and providing the people so voted in a plebiscite. The next day he inquired whether, in the event he accepted the plan, this would be the UN's last compromise.

State Dept. review completed

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Dejean fears Paris will seek immediate cease-fire to save Dien Bien Phu: The American embassy in Saigon reports that French Commissioner General for Indochina, Dejean, greatly fears that "certain ministers" in the Paris government will press for an immediate cease-fire in order to save Dien Bien Phu. Dejean is afraid that following the 3-4 May council of war in Hanoi, General Navarre will conclude that a political agreement is the only way to save the fortress and suggest this policy to Paris. Such a recommendation from Navarre would probably find considerable support within the French National Assembly, particularly among those expected to attack Laniel this week for not pressing hard enough for a solution at Geneva.

French insistence on a solution being found at Geneva is pointed up by a report from Ambassador Heath now in Geneva. He indicates that Bidault told Secretary Dulles on 3 May that he was charged with making sure that no Frenchman would be killed in Indochina after the close of the Geneva talks.

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